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June 20, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MCBEE RESIGNS AS EIU ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

CHARLESTON -- Bob McBee has resigned as athletic director at Eastern Illinois University, but will continue employment with the university in a different capacity.

McBee, Eastern's athletic director since June 1, 1994, will be reassigned to the university's vice president for student affairs office where he will serve as special assistant to Vice President Lou Hencken, beginning June 30.

Although McBee's position is temporary, Hencken said a national search could be conducted for a permanent replacement if the need for the position continues after one year.

Hencken said that any administrator may be reassigned as prescribed in the provisions of the EIU Board of Trustees regulations and in the university's internal governing policies.

In making the announcement today, Hencken said, "Bob has accomplished a lot in two years, but is ready for new challenges. We happen to have many projects in student affairs that we simply haven't had the time or the staff to initiate. Bob has been a senior administrator in higher education for a number of years and has

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expertise in a variety of student affairs issues. His educational background complements the work he will be doing for us."

McBee will receive the same annual salary as his previous administrative assignment, Hencken said.

Hencken said he will not name an acting director of athletics, but instead will personally oversee intercollegiate athletics in addition to his other management responsibilities as vice president for student affairs and will reassign McBee's athletic duties to current staff.

"I am very proud of my accomplishments as Eastern's athletic director. We've received NCAA certification and are going into a very well-known, respected conference. We've had winning records in everything from football to tennis. We've had some excellent additions to our staff and have been able to renovate some of our facilities. We've placed greater emphasis on students' overall academic and athletic experience, as well as their personal and career development," McBee said.

"I believe I've accomplished what I set out to do and that it's now time to move on to new challenges. This opportunity came up in the vice president for student affairs area, allowing me to expand my horizons beyond the athletic arena. I believe this arrangement is in my best interests, as well as the university's," he added.

"Most of all, I want to thank the university, the community and Panther Club members for their long-lasting support of Eastern athletics. Through everyone's generous support, Eastern will be able to continue offering a top-notch athletics

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program," McBee continued.

Prior to EIU, McBee was director of athletics at Robert Morris College near Pittsburgh.